

Advisory Commission Field Visit **West Bank Field**

The overall objective of the field visit is for Advisory Commission (AdCom) members to gain an understanding of the increasingly coercive environment faced by Palestine refugees in the greater Jerusalem area. The visit will provide insights into the shrinking humanitarian and civic space as a consequence of decades of occupation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The visit will provide an overview of the overarching challenges faced by Palestine refugees and focus on some of the refugee specific challenges, connected to the reality of life in camps under occupation.

Members will have an opportunity to engage with UNRWA staff, discuss community experiences with refugees, and meet with representatives of other UN agencies and local NGOs engaged with civil rights issues in East Jerusalem. This will provide an understanding of the overall political and humanitarian situation in the greater Jerusalem area, the impact on Palestine refugees and the context in which UNRWA operates.

The first day will focus on East Jerusalem; first by looking in depth at the Barrier, access restrictions and settlement expansion within the Israeli defined Jerusalem municipal boundary. Secondly by zooming in on the challenges and inequalities in terms of service provision and civic space in East Jerusalem.

AdCom members will then meet with members of the local community in Shu'fat Camp, who will share their experience of living in a camp that is caught between the wall and the municipal boundary.

The second day will focus on the areas surrounding East Jerusalem and look at the day-to-day protection challenges faced by the Palestine refugees. In Arroub Camp and Al Walajah, the participants will get a comprehensive understanding of the protection challenges related to ISF excessive use of force and settler violence in the occupied West Bank. From the refugee community themselves, participants will also get a chance to learn about the consequences of living and growing up in such an environment. UNRWA staff will explain UNRWAs assistance to and protection of the affected population.

Wednesday 19th June 2019: What annexation looks like in East Jerusalem

08:00 – 09:00

Changing the character of East Jerusalem

Location: UNRWA West Bank Field Office, Main Conference Room

Presenter: Gwyn Lewis, DUO of UNRWA West Bank and Ray Dolphin, OCHA

This segment will present the current reality of living in East Jerusalem for Palestine Refugees, including what impact the Barrier and settlement expansion has on the lives and livelihood of its residents. The presentation will also give a better understanding of UNRWAs role in East Jerusalem and an understanding of the operational impact of the continued consolidation of occupation control of East Jerusalem.

09:00 – 10:00

NGO presentation on shrinking civic space and rights in Jerusalem

Location: UNRWA West Bank Field Office, Main Conference Room

Presenter: (TBC)

This segment will account for the overall impacts to the everyday life of Palestine Refugees living under annexation, including the shrinking civic space and the lack of service provision for Palestinians living in East Jerusalem

10:00 – 12:00 **Visit view points that illustrate the confiscation of land and settlement expansion**
Location: UNRWA West Bank Field Office, Main Conference Room
Lead: Gwyn Lewis, DUO of UNRWA West Bank and OCHA
After the presentation, the participants will be accompanied on a guided tour of selected viewpoints around East Jerusalem

12:00 – 14.00 **Briefing from Camp Community and UNRWA staff in Shu’fat Camp**
Location: UNRWA Girls School Shu’fat Camp
Lead: Chief Area Officer and Refugee community
In this session, the participants will learn more about daily life in Shu’fat Camp from UNRWA frontline staff and members of the local community (including the Youth and Women’s center)
Because of its position between Israeli defined Jerusalem Municipal boundary lines and the wall, Shu’fat Camp has many unique and severe challenges. On the protection side, concerns in Shu’fat Camp particularly are around the use of force and child detention by the Israeli Security Forces during operations. In addition, due to the lack of police presence, drug use and criminality are part of daily life for camp residents and UNRWA staff.

14:00-15:00 **Lunch hosted by the Shu’fat Women’s Center**

Thursday 20th June 2019: What Occupation looks like in the West Bank

07:45 **Arrival to WBFO**

08:00 **Departure from WBFO to Arroub**

09:45 – 12:00 **Protection Briefing focusing on Occupation related concerns - Briefing from staff and discussion with refugee community**
Location: Arroub Camp
Lead: Protection and CAO
In Arroub camp, UNRWA’s protection team will give a brief account of the key occupation-related protection challenges for Palestine Refugees, with a specific focus on child detention and use of live ammunition. The Arroub Camp community will subsequently share their experiences and concerns.

12:00-12:45 **Lunch**

12:45-13:30 **Transport**

13:30 – 15:00 **Settlement Expansion and Coercive Environment – tour, briefing and discussion with refugees**
Location: Al Walajah
Lead: Protection
Land confiscation, the associated settlement expansion and restriction on access due to the Barrier and permit regime have severely impacted the freedom of movement and livelihoods of the community in Al Walaja. The briefing in Al Walaja and discussions with key members of the community will highlight the resulting vulnerability and protection concerns of the Palestine refugees living in the area.

15:00-16:00 **Transport to West Bank Field Office**